

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 10, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 28, 33, 36, 38-40 and 42-48 and objected to claims 29, 30, 34, 35, 41, 49 and 50, but indicated claims 29, 30, 34, 35, 41, 49 and 50 as allowable if rewritten in independent format. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. By way of the foregoing amendments and the markings to show changes, Applicants have amended claims 28, 30, 33, 34, 39, 40 and 44-46, have canceled claims 29, 41 and 47-49 and have added new claims 51-59. APPLICANTS BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THE CLAIMS STILL PENDING HAVE BEEN INDICATED BY THE EXAMINER AS ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER as explained below. The foregoing amendments are taken in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicant would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112

The Office Action rejected claims 33 and 45 for lacking antecedent basis. Applicants have amended these claims to overcome the rejection.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102 or 103

The Office Action rejected claims 28, 33, 36, 38-40 and 42-48 and objected to claims 29, 30, 34, 35, 41, 49 and 50, but indicated claims 29, 30, 34, 35, 41, 49 and 50 as allowable if rewritten in independent format. Without acquiescing in these rejections, Applicants have amended the claims of the present application to embody the subject matter indicated as allowable as explained below.

Claim 28 has been amended to include the language of allowable previously pending claim 29 and should therefore be allowable.

Claim 40 has been amended to include the language of allowable previously pending claim 41. While claim 41 was dependent upon claim 29, Applicants believe that the Examiner interpreted claim 41 as being dependent upon claim 40 since such dependence would be required to provide proper antecedent basis to the language of claim 41 and/or to avoid duplicate limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that current claim 40 is allowable, however, if Applicants' beliefs as the Examiner's interpretation are incorrect, Applicants request that the Examiner phone the undersigned to make any amendments necessary to arrive at allowable subject matter.

Claim 46 has been amended to include the language of allowable previously pending claim 49 and the intervening claims, claims 47 and 48. As such, Applicants believe that claim 46 is allowable.

III. New Claims

New claims have been added to the application dependent upon the allowable subject matter that was discussed above. The new claims are based upon dependent claims that were previously pending in the present application. Applicants believe that the new claims are allowable.

By amending the application, the Applicants do not concede that the patent coverage available to them would not extend as far as the original claim. Rather, Applicants intend to file a continuation application to pursue the breadth of the claims as filed. Applicants believe that the Examiner has not made a sufficient showing of inherency of the teachings of the asserted prior art, especially given the lack of teachings in the cited references of the properties that Applicants have recited in their claims.

Further, by the present amendment, it does not follow that the amended claims have become so perfect in their description that no one could devise an equivalent.

After amendment, as before, limitations in the ability to describe the present invention in language in the patent claims naturally prevent the Applicants from capturing every nuance of the invention or describing with complete precision the range of its novelty or every possible equivalent. See, Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., 62 USPQ2d 1705 (2002). Accordingly, the foregoing amendments are made specifically in the interest of expediting prosecution and there is no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled.

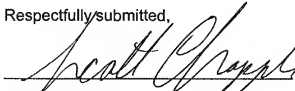
CONCLUSIONS

In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 292-2920.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

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Respectfully submitted,



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